WMUC presents

reverie

March 2021

featuring art, music reviews, articles, and more!

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LETTER FROM E BOARD

Welcome to our third issue of WMUC's zine! WMUC is the University of Maryland's student-run free-form radio station. It has been a year since the pandemic began, shutting down most of our operations; now we are back on air producing high-quality content for the College Park community we know and love. DJs are broadcasting from the comfort of their own rooms, with no shortage of online activities and departments to participate in.

The weather is getting warmer and with that comes a wave of hope for the coming months. We are slowly and safely expanding our in-person presence in the station and around town. We are in the planning stages for many exciting projects. There's a buzz of excitement coming from our (virtual) doors at WMUC. This just shows that college radio persists. Since 1979, we have brought you diverse programming. Today, we present to you: REVERIE. Diverse, engaging content for the same audience that has stuck with us for 42 years.

Enjoy this zine in a sunny field with a bottle of white wine. While you're out enjoying the simple pleasures that come with spring, tune into WMUC on our app/website or 88.1 on the dial.

With love,

WMUC Executive Board
Madeline Redding, General Manager
Kira Peck, Program Director
Delaney Accomando, Operations Director
Beau Giebels, Business Director

Art by Mar Mañus

Letter from the Editors

Dear reader,

It's us again. We're still kickin'.

Today, the 20th of March, is the spring equinox, and with it comes balance. It's time to stretch your legs out and realign after the winter chill. The weather is getting warmer, the sunlight is once again glinting through the trees, and just like the leaves, we are regrowing.

Despite a full year of distance, we at WMUC were still able to come together using art, music, and graphic design to keep us feeling connected, and we hope to share some of this with you as you read this zine.

Once again, we took to Zoom, bearing through the hell that is Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop to bring this inspiring plethora of pieces to your screens.

To prepare you for the upcoming spring bloom, this issue features a reflective essay on cottagecore, a look back at a 17th-century Japanese swordsman's rules for life, and your very own tarot card reading.

Thank you to all the incredible writers, musicians, poets, artists, photographers, and more who opened their works and hearts to us this time.

We are proud to present to you the third issue of the WMUC zine...***REVERIE.***

WMUC Zine Editors

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CLASS OF 1992

by Kyle Russo

Since I was a kid, my mom would always make a point to tell me how cool of a mom she was, usually to the point where it wasn't cool anymore (but she doesn't have to know that). She'd always have a song to play for my siblings and me, or a crazy story to share from her teenage years. I never believed her, but now, I think she might be cooler than me.

To test my theory, I asked my mom to send me some of her favorite songs, albums and artists during her time in college. I thought maybe then I could gauge her coolness - so, with a phone call and a thorough email, she set me off on my trek through the music of the class of 1992.

Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fugees, Metallica - already from first glance, the list seemed deeply steeped in the late '80s/early '90s. There were some bands I didn't recognize on there too: Depeche Mode, The Black Crowes, Blind Melon, Jane's Addiction and Lowen & Navarro (whose songs she would apparently sing with her friend Bob (whom she called Boob)).

My lack of knowledge wasn't surprising - my impression of '90s music extends only as far as artists like Fiona Apple and Björk.

It was actually fulfilling, though, to finally put a name on songs I've been hearing since childhood. Songs I'd hear at late night block parties, cicadas chirping, my stumpy fingers bound together with watermelon juice; songs my mom would sing along to when she met up with her old sorority sisters; songs I might've remembered hearing from before I could even remember things. As I listened, I felt myself transported back to that time. I've put together my personal highlights, in no particular order.

1 **"Nothing Compares 2 U" by Sinéad O'Connor:** This song was probably the most in tune with what I listen to now. Backed by strings and a slow, booming drum beat, it's a perfect song to listen to on repeat while sulking alone in your bed or to sing along to with friends. And Sinéad O'Connor has just enough weird quirks to her voice and vibe to make this song a top highlight.

2 **"Like The Way I Do" by Melissa Etheridge:** Of all the more traditional rock songs my mom sent me, this was by far the best. Let me tell you, I was PUMPED listening to this song - Etheridge's voice and the instrumentals make you feel like you're front row at a concert. It definitely surpassed my expectations. As my mom wrote, "best song to have your friends surprise you at 2 a.m. with a fan kick dance." I've never experienced it, but I agree.

3 **"Killing Me Softly With His Song" by Fugees:** This song is a classic. Even though I'd heard it before, it felt like a crime to not include it in this list. It's the perfect soundtrack to the '90s and a pinnacle of R&B.

4 **"Suicide Blonde" by INXS:** Another song I'd heard before, and too good to not include. One of the most danceable and distinctly late '80s/early '90s song on the list, it made me feel nostalgic for a time I wasn't even alive.

5 **"What I Am" by Edie Brickell and New Bohemians:** This song feels exactly like 9 p.m. on a Thursday in July 2008, but maybe that's just me. I really loved the softer rock vibe it has - what else can I say, it's just nice to listen to.

The conclusion? My mom is pretty cool. I never expected to like her music as much as I did - the songs I brushed off as old and boring as a kid might just become ones I'll be blasting down the road. It definitely made me feel a lot closer with my mom, and maybe quite a bit more homesick, too.

Road Trip with npr tiny desk CONCERTS

If you're a fan of indie and alternative music, or really just music in general, you've probably stumbled across NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series on YouTube. This concert series showcases stripped-down performances: no screens, no huge lighting show, no stadium seating, just artists behind a desk- many times with just a simple shotgun mic to pick up the music.

It's easy to get lost watching hours of these, especially right now when normal concerts just aren't possible. Additionally, I bet a lot of you are itching to travel, which is also restricted at the moment, so to try and kill two birds with one stone, let's take a road trip through the US! We'll start out west in California, taking the I-10 east until we hit Florida. After that we'll turn northward and head up the east coast, ending here in Maryland. Along the way we'll look at one musician from each state we go through, plus a helpful review taken from the YouTube comments of their Tiny Desk Concert video.

Now that we've planned our trip, let's hit the road!

To listen to the full playlist scan the QR Code below!

by Calvin Crunkleton (@how_we_decorate_time)

Washington D.C. - Trouble Funk

"YO WHOS DAD IS DIS"

-Evan Weisenberger

Maryland - Oddisee

"Like fresh air..."

-Eric Bennett

Virginia - No BS! Brass Band

"I have no idea how i got here, im half drunk and this is amazing"

-N7

Califonia - Nickle Creek

"I was looking for Nickleback and somehow ended up here, This is better."

-narayanava83

North Carolina - Ben Folds

"he punches the god damn piano, its great"

-feverboat

New Mexico - Beirut

"I picture Seinfeld and Gumby salsa dancing to the last song!! Beirut is flippin great!"

-steven taylor

Mississippi - Big K.R.I.T.

"That is the most bass player looking bass player I have ever seen"

-Sonny Etchell

South Carolina - Toro y Moi

"THAT WAS DELICIOUS"

-Aide basillo

Louisiana - Trombone Shorty

"Funkier than week old fish in the sunshine, baby!"

-Bill Loman

Arizona - Tim Darcy

"Clicked for the guitar. Stayed for the good vibes"

-FrancescoFp

Georgia - The Black Crowes

"I was 98% sure that this was going to end in a fistfight."

-Phillip Hintze

Texas - Leon Bridges

"This is what my record player will be playing as the nuclear fallout rains down and I dance slowly with my wife..."

-Bobby Reobertson

Alabama - St. Paul & The Broken Bones

"To the woman that broke this man's heart, thank you."

-Fletcher Moore

Florida - Diego Garcia

"My name is Diego Garcia also! cool!"

-Diego Garcia

the Y2K problem

zainab kazaure

Dark and light academia, cottagecore, alt, soft girl, amongst others—all labels donned by the Gen-Z TikTok masses in an attempt to distinguish their sense of style. As with most aspects pertaining to culture though, ignorance runs an undercurrent throughout them.

Black culture and its appropriation is unfortunately not a new issue. But as "Y2K" gains traction across several platforms, it's worth addressing its roots as a style very much tied to a culture that has been important to Black people in the United States for a long time (way before it was ever a Pinterest buzzword) and where people are getting it very much wrong.

Before understanding what Y2K is, we have to know where the term originated. The Year 2000 bug, otherwise known as the Y2K Bug, was the fear that all kinds of technology would fail leading up to the year 2000 because there (supposedly) weren't lines of code written to properly process the turn of the century.

It resulted in directors, artists, and fashion designers incorporating uber-futuristic elements into their works to push an optimistic vision for what was to come. Think the "Say You'll Be There" music video (The Spice Girls), trippy graphic design, icy blues and silvers, glossy blacks, and The Matrix.

ginger spice serving REAL Y2K greatness.

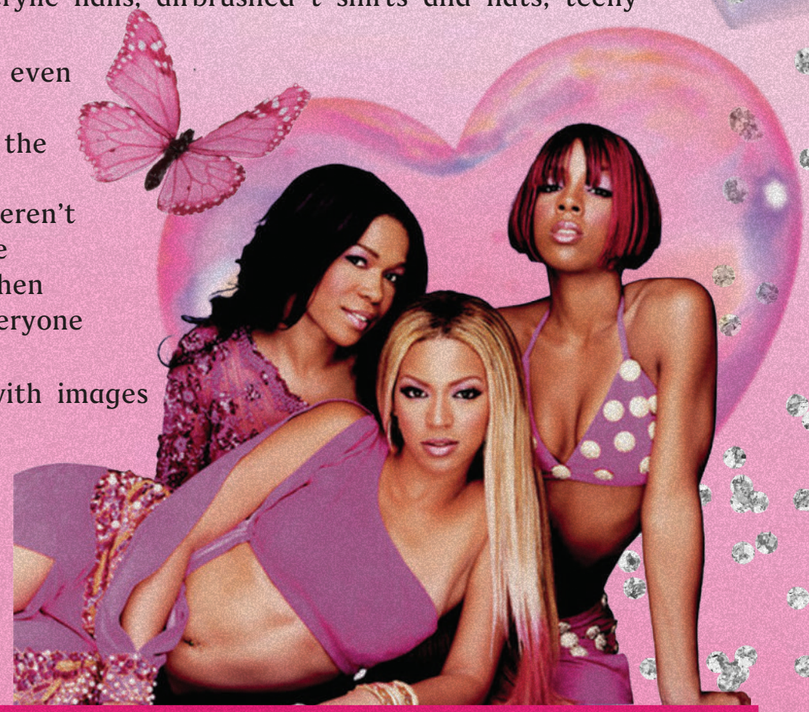
TLC in their ICONIC "No Scrubs" MV fits, which set the tone for one of the most well known afrofuturistic moments of 90s R&B.

However, this incorporation of futuristic elements on the part of creatives wasn't anything new. See Afrofuturism: a cultural aesthetic that intersects the African diaspora with mythology, science fiction, and technology. It was present across works by Black artists before the Y2K bug even became a concern. Erykah Badu, Janet Jackson, Sun Ra, Aaliyah, TLC, Michael Jackson are all artists who have employed this aesthetic. It's still present today through the likes of FKA Twigs, Solange, Janelle Monáe, and the entire premise of Marvel's *Black Panther*.

But both Afrofuturism and Y2K are separate from the 1990s to early 2000s fashion currently associated with the label "Y2K." When you look under the tags, you'll see a plethora of images of women donning whale tails and visible g-strings, super long acrylic nails, airbrushed t-shirts and hats, teeny skirts, and low-rise jeans.

First, these trends aren't even truly Y2K. Second, and most importantly, for Black women the days where these trends were deemed "tacky" or "ghetto" weren't too long ago. Which raises the question: why is it "trashy" when we do it, but trendy when everyone else does?

Why is Y2K associated with images of Paris Hilton in everything low-waisted and sequined when Destiny's Child did it first —but when they did it, Tina-Knowles Lawson was told they dress "too Black"? Very interesting.



So today's "Y2K" aesthetic? Black people pioneered that. And it's not even Y2K. And actual Y2K? Afrofuturism came before that. Yet, too many still fail to see how our impacts on art, music, fashion, and culture overall are constantly undermined.

The next time you type Y2K into the Pinterest or TikTok search, you can think about that.

Document1 - Microsoft Word

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Type a question for help

100% Read by Caleb Yoshida 10

kanye2049.com looks like an old Mac that belongs to the president in 2049. Upon booting up, you're stopped by a login page. The password hint is, 'greatest album of all time,' and the password is, of course, any Kanye West album. A story unfolds after signing in: human civilization is close to its end, and somehow relatedly, the president has received a Kanye album leak from an alternate universe, conveniently available on this computer.

Actually, the website is the work of musical artist Toasty Digital and front-end developer Starfennec to showcase the former's mashup album, *Kanye 2049*. It's entitled 2049 because of the accompanying story based around how global warming is projected to be an existential threat by as soon as 2050. On the simulated desktop, EARTH.txt points to resources for climate change education and mitigation. When playing songs from the album, evocative visuals related to global warming appear in the background, keeping climate change in mind throughout the experience.

Comment: Antoine Guillou, a French freelance developer who has worked on Nespresso's French website

Browsing the site, it creates the feeling that it really is someone else's computer, and elicits the sense of exploration and discovery that comes with that. It makes you interact with the album in a way you usually wouldn't, simply browsing files with no progress bar or cover art to be found. It reminds you of clicking on a Dropbox link your friend sent you containing an album that hasn't been released, and since you have it in hand, probably never will be. It makes you listen to the music with a focus that you might not have used otherwise.

On the album, Toasty Digital takes some of Kanye West's best tracks and mixes them to make something completely different from the original. His version of "Jesus Walks," originally powerful and robust, is instead dark, and at times isolating and empty. In another example, on "Black Skinhead," off the album *Yeezus*, Kanye's examination of minimalism conversely sounds warm and full, with string instruments and a Frank Ocean sample, thus completely subverting the original production. The album also samples externally, notably including Daft Punk, Aphex Twin, Kendrick Lamar, and Drake, simultaneously adding new elements and doubling down on the inspirations for some of the original tracks.

Comment: off Kanye's first album, *The College Dropout*, and was revolutionary for its religious reference

Comment: minimalist and industrial, in sharp contrast to his preceding *MBDTF*. Producer credits include Arca and Daft Punk

Some of my favorite tracks:

"Lift Yourself"

This is the infamous 'POOPITY SCOOP' song. Kanye wasted this beat because Drake wanted it, but the remix does that wasted beat justice. It begins with the verse from "Diamonds from Sierra Leone," one of his early masterpieces, and the production varies wildly, ranging from Nujabes-reminiscent to sounding straight off of *808s & Heartbreak*. This track is multifaceted and focused, showing some of Kanye at his best.

Comment: jazz-influenced Japanese hip-hop producer and God. 'lofi beats to relax/study to' is his offspring

Comment: "an introspective, minimal electro-pop record"

"I Love It"

Jay-Z comes in disgusting on the instrumental for "I Love It" with his verse from "Otis," and just when it's about to start sounding like a Lil Wayne bars record, the production transitions to a string arrangement of "I Wonder," making this song one of the most hopeful and beautiful on the album, with a rhythmic vocal delivery that is mesmerizing. This song is for everyone born after 2006 wondering why their older siblings aren't listening to "Say So" by Doja Cat.

Comment: *The Blueprint*, one of his best albums, was produced by Kanye

Comment: off *Watch the Throne*, Kanye and Jay-Z's collaboration album, and samples Otis Redding

Comment: death of culture

"Bound 2049"

The introduction on this track sounds like the Pokémon Diamond & Pearl OST but is quickly interrupted by Drake's opening on "Sicko Mode." What follows is an upbeat and bright instrumental using the recognizable soul sample from "Bound 2." Pusha T's and Kanye's performances provide a grimy contrast to the springy production. This track once again shows the versatility of Kanye's material, used decisively by Toasty Digital.

Comment: one of the best and most immersive video game original soundtracks

The album isn't without its flaws, though. I sometimes felt like Toasty Digital clocked out after putting mismatching vocals and production together, leaving the quality of the samples to carry the track. On the other hand, at times, things felt very cluttered and overwhelming, as if he merely wanted to see how many MIDI tracks his processor could handle and nothing else. But overall, it's an impressive body of work, and not without creativity and artistry.

In the menu bar, File>Show hidden files reveals jeffery.gif, an animated dancing gecko, maybe a reference to Jeffree Star, but probably not. It also reveals GKTF (DEMO).mp3, which contains "MAAD World," from Toasty Digital's next project, *Good Kid, Twisted Fantasy*, the album that Kendrick Lamar listens to while in cryogenic sleep on his journey to colonize one of Jupiter's moons in 2050.

Comment: with whom Kanye West allegedly had sexual relations

Comment: Aa combination of *MBDTF* by Kanye and *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City* by Kendrick Lamar, two of the greatest and most influential early-2000s hip-hop albums

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Maladaptive Baby by Ileana Y. Lozano

What do you care if I smile to myself?
I get lost in my dream
While they are forced to be
Be in dark blue schoolroom seats
But I see him in my dreams
All dreams are gifts even the nightmares
That dream was something
Be your own dream girl, lady
Living her midnight dream
I'll be a maladaptive baby

MedusaAndromedusandrome-dusandromeda by Alice Murphy

I.

MedusaAndromedusandromedusandromeda.
perhaps one knew that in order
for the other to live, her
life must be given up.
two such women cannot
love such a single
flimsy thing
as a
Boy.

II.

I saw a birds skull
lying there on the ground
bones bleached white by the sun.
There was a flower growing from a split
in the bird's beak.
Like he was trying to speak
The language of the plants
He ate so mindlessly when
alive.
He looks lonely. Maybe I'll sit with him for
awhile.

Art by Emily W.

Joni Mitchell

BLUE

album review by Kyle Russo

It's been 50 years since Joni Mitchell released *Blue*, her 4th studio album, in 1971, but her masterpiece of folk excellence hasn't aged a day.

Blue is a time capsule of the 70s soaked in lyrical mastery and haunting, beautiful melodies. It's like a colorful tapestry, each song adding its own unique stitch - it's no surprise Mitchell now considers herself an artist before a songwriter.

As Mitchell journeys through emotional piano ballads and upbeat sing-a-longs backed by strumming guitar, her themes of peace, anguish and vulnerability shine through. She pours her heart and soul into her music, leaving no secrets behind. Mitchell manages to take overused themes and transform them into something entirely new. It's timely - especially considering the sentiments surrounding the anti-war movement at the time - yet still timeless.

The album really hits its mark with two of her most well known songs, "River" and "A Case Of You." Antitheses of heartbreak and long-ing, the songs feature Mitchell's most technically impressive and soulful vocal performances of the entire album. Her lyrical genius, too, is on full display. It's impossible to hear the lyric "You said, 'Love is touching souls.' Surely you touched mine," and not feel a pang in my chest.

Blue cemented Mitchell as a legend, and it's not hard to see why. Her sheer musical talent and ability to connect with her audience make a truly timeless album - one that only gets better with each listen. It even helped Mitchell inspire artists as legendary as Prince, and she continues to inspire artists like Taylor Swift and Fiona Apple. All considering, it's not a stretch to say that *Blue* set a new standard in the league of singer-songwriters, and still does even half a century after its initial release.

a tribute to her's

The four of us sat comfortably in the usual 2012 Ford Focus we used for our own adventures. It was a gentle, warm Friday afternoon. We skipped the last 20 minutes of 6th period to head to the senior lot early so we could leave before school got out. I sat in the passenger's seat, two of my friends in the back, and another behind the wheel. The car comforted us with its usual new car smell as we drove to the carwash. The destination was never planned but we were always satisfied. We drove on familiar roads with our windows down, giggling, screaming, practically every middle-aged person's worst nightmare. The soundtrack to our afternoon adventure played obnoxiously in the car, but it was the perfect volume. Once we arrived, someone passed me the phone to pick the next song. I scrolled through our surf rock playlist and queued up "Marcel" by Her's. A classic song we all loved and never got tired of. "Oh my God, Her's passed away this week my friend just texted me," someone said. Jaws dropped and eyes bulged as we exchanged expressions of shock with each other. "Marcel" played quietly on the stereo as aggressive suds of soap attacked the car from the outside. The silence was thick and hard to cut through. I felt my heart sink and felt my friends' hearts fall too. "UK band Her's killed in head-on crash in Arizona", my eyes fell onto the headline on my phone, almost feeling nothing. "Jesus Christ," I finally spoke. We finished our brief mourning period and resumed our lives; we had to go on. But, the sour feeling lingered and still does.

This March, the anniversary of their death approaches. I wanted to share their gifts with you. This talented band from Liverpool has so much to offer to you this spring, maybe even a lifetime. This band dabbles in Shoegaze, Dream Pop, Indie Rock, and Jangle Pop. These elements are perfect for your soon to be revitalizing spring. This powerful duo is refreshing and uplifting, a must-add to your springtime playlists. Here is an Invitation to Her's. I hope you enjoy your visit.

As for Her's, you should know that humanity misses you.

article by Marlia Nash

Grandma's House

By Freddy Wolfe

Two Women Revisited

Reviews by Eric Harkleroad

Nina Simone - *Wild is the Wind*

On her iconic 60s album, singer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist Nina Simone presents a treasure trove of vocal jazz, soul, and folk trinkets.

It's something you wouldn't expect from an album of leftovers. Released in 1966, this record compiles unused tracks recorded during sessions for her previous Philips Records albums in 1964 and 1965.

Now on this new, non-American label, Simone was given the freedom to use her music bring up Civil Rights issues. On this album, she cuts right to the chase with this on the second track.

The haunting "Four Women," an original Simone song, leaves the listener in awe with its genius. In it, she weaves a tale in four parts, from the perspectives of four Black women throughout history, starting the album on a high note.

From there, it just keeps going.

From the romantic and longing "What More Can I Say" to the heart-aching "Lilac Wine" through to the sensual title track, Simone delivers an emotional album showing all facets of love.

Her genre-bending mix of blues, jazz, and folk takes us on an rollercoaster ride of highs and lows, emulating the truly turbulent nature of being in love.

Through it all, whether backed by a full string band or by a lone piano, Simone's passionate contralto unites it all.

Joan Baez - *Farewell, Angelina*

Folk balladeer and social activist Joan Baez was already a big name in the music scene when she released her fourth studio album in 1965.

By then, she had made a name for herself outside of her native Harvard Square in Massachusetts, performed a protest song at the March on Washington in front of Martin Luther King, Jr. before a crowd of over 200,000 and had two certified gold records.

Unlike her first three releases, which were mostly recordings of traditional songs with sparse guitar accompaniment, "Farewell, Angelina" features covers of tunes from Bob Dylan, Donovan, Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger with just two lone traditional songs.

Marking not only a departure from her standard folk repertoire, this was also her first album to feature electric guitar, bass, and mandolin accompaniments to her acoustic fingerpicking.

Thankfully, these do nothing to disturb the timeless character that Baez, with her operatic soprano and charismatic charm, creates as she weaves tales of lost love, blue-eyed sons, and cross-eyed pirates.

In just 40 minutes, Baez takes the listener on a guided tour of what would later be coined "singer/songwriter" music. Songs that were written straight from the heart and still captivate their listeners to this day.

Art by Delaney Accomando

“arcadia”

Joy Lee

The sun’s existence is intended to extend past our own.
She’s a constant marvel: warm, profound, and unknown.

When the sky is gray and they’re nowhere to be found, we sit and wait by the window to make sure that they’re okay.

But who waits by the window for us?
It can’t be the sun, because she’s simply too divine.
It can’t be the moon when she disappears some nights.
And it can’t be everyone else, because they have work to do.

It’s empty space, and sometimes, empty words. They’re the lingering presence of our heartbreaks, doubts, and regrets. We always know that they’ll get up and leave soon, but never know exactly when that will be.

In these moments, I hope you remember that I am here, and you are me.

I’m everything you’ve ever dreamed of, and everything you have yet to pursue.
When you forget to do your laundry, I’m the pat on the back reassuring you they’ll get done soon.
Although I’m never fully grown, and you might not see when I’m there,
You don’t have to see me! I promise that I really don’t care.

I’m the stars in your eyes when you overcome someone you hate.
I’m the confirmation when you turn in something late.
I’m the one waiting for you, because we’re one and the same.
A red thread that’s always connecting your heart and your brain.

Which one am I? Is this what you’re about to ask?
It doesn’t matter, just try and stop waiting for new versions of the past.

I’m so proud of you! You’re so magical, and exude so much light.
I can’t wait for someone else to see the way you view life.
It doesn’t have to be good- I have no standards that you have to meet.
Whatever you want, just ask! It’s much easier than you might think.

“What’s the worst that could happen”? Well sometimes, the worst will come true.
But you did the best you could, and I love you for that too.
Whatever you want, whether it’s red or if it’s blue,
I will help you achieve! You are me, and I am you.

The fear of being unloved and not knowing why.
Wanting to be desired, but being unable to try.

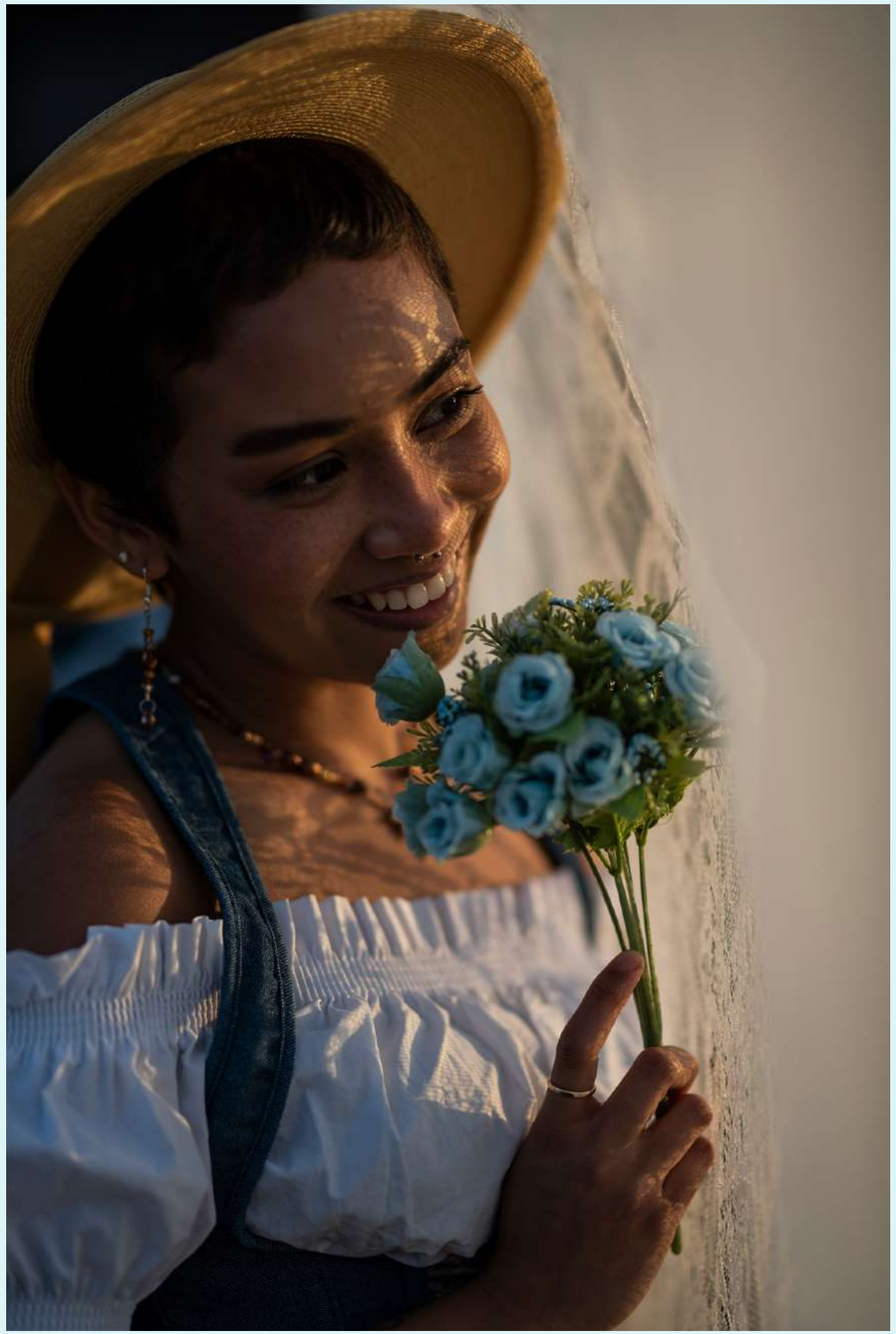
Why Cottagecore?

By Eric Harkleroad

Nearly a year ago, right in the middle of early quarantine, as everyone was dutifully attending to their sourdough starter and making resin crafts while stuck at home, a word fell on everyone's lips — or rather, their keyboards: cottagecore.

A yearning for an undefined bygone era replete with tea parties and meadow frolicking washed over the masses. To date, #cottagecore has been viewed over five billion times on TikTok.

Now, a year later, I want to try to understand why this aesthetic blew up so hard when it did.



Melati Maupin photographed by Eric Harkleroad

I've been living under a rock for a year. What's cottagecore?

Right. For those unaware, cottagecore is an aesthetic based around the idyllic concept of living in a cottage, hence the name, in the middle of nowhere. You're in a beautiful farm town isolated from the rest of civilization. You sew your own clothes and forage mushrooms for a living. In your spare time, you feed the ducks on the pond bits of bread you've baked. Here, there are no Instagram shopping tabs or Snapchat streaks. You are safe.

Cottagecore is about living a simple, pastoral life. It romanticizes a quaint, picturesque ideal of the countryside. Baking pies, lying in hammocks and picking flowers are all activities you're likely to find a follower of the cottagecore lifestyle doing.

Sounds nice. What's the style look like?

Cottagecore fashion is mostly a feminine affair. You'll tend to see loose, free-flowing dresses, skirts and nightgowns. The color palette reflects the delicate, natural vibes of rural scenery. Soft whites, greens, some pastels. Lace, embroidery, gingham and floral prints also tend to make an appearance.

Overall, the look is vintage. Think aprons, braids, and wicker baskets as accessories. You'll need a little knapsack to collect flowers in as well.

Why did it emerge when it did?

It's March 2020. Just as spring's warmth is beginning to roll over, melting the snow after a chilly winter, a pandemic strikes. It forces everyone to shelter in place in their own homes. No going outside, no seeing your friends in person. All interpersonal communication can only happen via the internet.

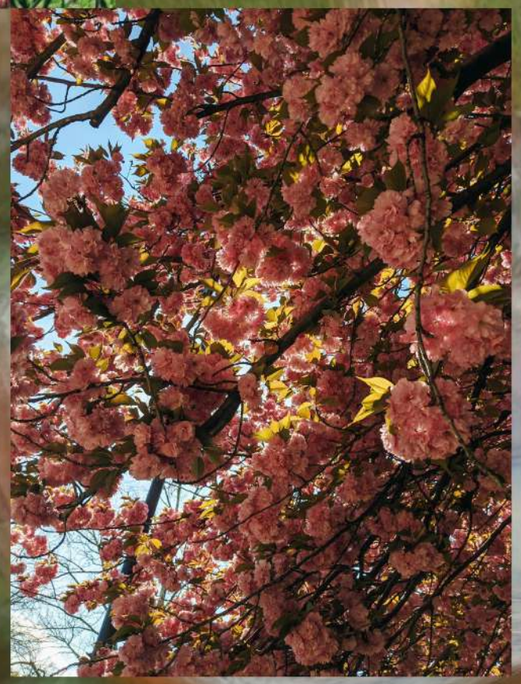
It's no wonder people want to retreat to the countryside! A year later, that longing for a pastoral fantasy without the stressors of the gig economy, social media or neoliberalism, rings true. Who wouldn't willingly flee for the hills if there was an escape from the hellscape that is modern society?

Cottagecore arose out of a need to fill the void that appeared when outside interpersonal interaction went away. Now being forced to have every interaction occur through social media and the internet, people wanted an out, and cottagecore gave it to them.

Cottagecore Playlist

1. Joan Baez - The Wild Mountain Thyme
2. Vashti Bunyan - Swallow Song
3. Haley Heynderickx - Little Wind
4. Linda Perhacs - Chimacum Rain
5. Josephine Foster - Eileen Aroon
6. Turid - Sometimes I Think Age Is a Treasure

Photos by Carolyn Wood



by sabrina li

Where are we now? (the cottagecore long play)

It's March 2021 and we're still at home.

In the hyper-accelerated trend cycle TikTok has popularized and quarantine has expedited, it's rare for any term, song, dance, abbreviation, or show to remain in the echoes of our autocorrect for long, but a few misplaced tweet formats and dangling TikTok audios remain: You'd be hard-pressed now to find anyone who hasn't heard of Doja Cat, and every now and then, your staple humor-stuck-in-2017 friend might send you a 'main character' allusion.That whole 'male manipulator music' thing stuck around so long that we branched off to 'woman manipulator music' (Lana del Rey, Mitski, Phoebe Bridgers, etc.) AND 'non-binary manipulator music' (Grimes, Arca, Poppy, etc.). Oh, and in case you're wondering, yes, Hello Kitty DOES still say ACAB… but more about that on page 6.

So, in that case, let us all lay down a round of applause for cottagecore.

Congratulations!!! To current-day forest vixens and commune sisters everywhere, you made it! The fantasized life we (the average TikTok user 'we') built you up to lead has lasted far beyond the typical spout of sporadic virality. Picnics in a self-grown garden, serenity of a shared voluntary isolation, a near-Amish avoidance of technology… these are still the images at the forefront of our (the average TikTok user 'our') minds. Re: you (not-implausible cottagecorean reader 'you') are still on trend!!! (And seasonal, I mean with spring coming up and everything.)

Maybe you're not too surprised — maybe I shouldn't be either. I mean, after all… we are still in quarantine. The coronavirus is still ravaging. The circumstances that generated an explosion of wannabe Anne of Green Gables haven't changed, so why would the Annes? Only, they have.

We've waded through another presidential hand-off and each day that passes under Rona's Reign runs parallel to a gradually-fraying-but-constantly-thudding aggravation at the sheer stagnancy of it all. Our momentary digital disillusion has fastened itself into a fixture, breathing new life into what it means to be online, and these days, Zoom acts in place of my favorite social media. Logging on is my morning routine. Point blank: a year has passed even if it feels like it hasn't, and I'm coming to realize there is only so much we can freeze.

Cottagecore first began gaining substantial press coverage in April 2020, though the search term didn't peak moderately until early August (when the world's biggest artist dropped a surprise album whose marketing relied on the woods, narrative escapism, and comfort [was having a lead single named "cardigan" too on the nose, or just right?]), then dramatically in mid-November (when Election Night extended into indefinite Election Weeks) — proving that cottagecore DOES, in fact, come back stronger than a 90s trend.

In a Vox piece from August, Paul Quinn, director of the Chichester Center for Fairy Tales, Fantasy, and Speculative Fiction, asserts that the popularity of cottagecore falls right in line with a longing for the past. It's not the only thing at play, but it's a good start. For an intro to cottagecore, be sure to check out bestie Eric's piece on page 14, but in the meantime, here's my condensed cottagecore dissertation:

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Courier New 10

1) The landscapes outlined by cottagecore are heavily inspired by European fairy tales, mainly due to the fact that Americans don't really have any of our own (the author could insert a piece of socio-historical commentary here cementing her 'wokeness,' but I digress). Quinn actually refers to the American adaptation of this European history as "an imported medieval period." The first leg of cottagecore's popularity grasps at someone else's nostalgia. Already, the images we idealize sink heavy with romanticization.

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2) By the time 'cottagecore' reached its peak search interest (November 2020), cottagecore had remained in the American cultural vernacular long enough for it to become its own past. With each day that passes, the one before glosses over, and on and on until the stems left become preserved in a resin block of mirrors. When the election pushed American uncertainty to its inflection point, we fell back onto the false history of our own conception. There is comfort found in the past, yes, but there is greater comfort found in certainty.

1a) This point that cottagecore does not have inherently American beginnings might read as a point of geographical fancy, but the fact that cottagecore has origins outside of the U.S. even though it blew up in the U.S. points to the impossibility of this collective coping mechanism. Cottagecore's ethos revolves around literally escaping from the confines of modernity, but the fact that our ideal destination holds roots in another country reflects the extent and desperation evident in our escapism. When a future felt fake and the present, outstandingly bleak, cottagecore invented a past where there wasn't one.

1b) And… even if we hadn't borrowed a past to call our own, how could we bear to revisit our actual history? We didn't need the coronavirus to tell us that everything sucks—that this country was founded on stolen soil and built on exploited labor—but it sure made things a whole lot clearer. When you've a history as shameful and ongoing as ours, revisiting the past does not breed comfort. So, it looks like we had to borrow from Europe once again.

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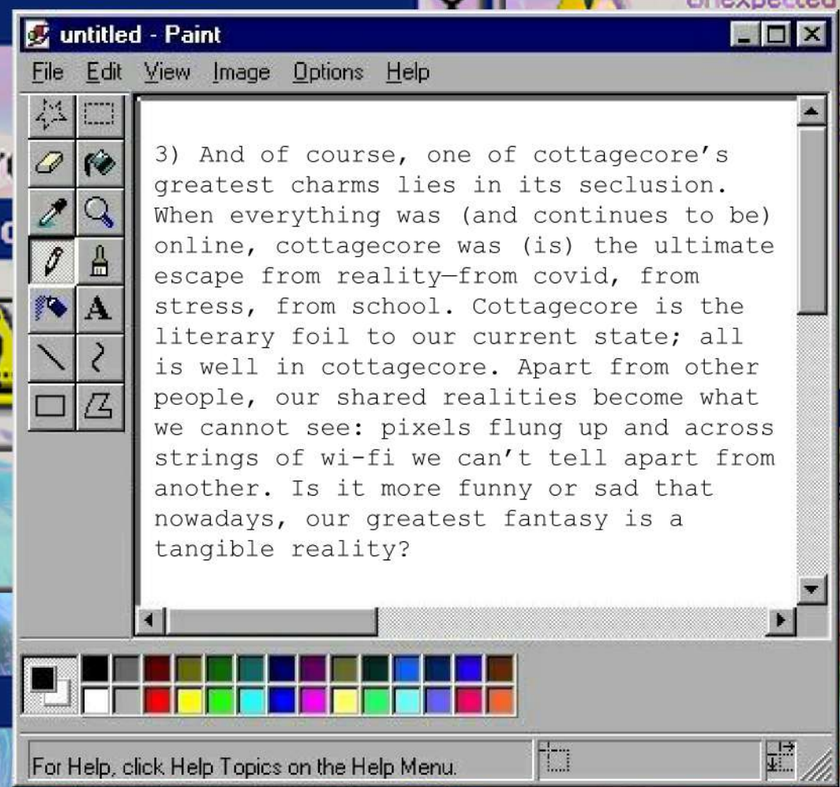
2a) Isn't that all we're searching for, really? When we don't know the next time we can spend a Saturday night pawing for an address, when we barely know the name of our next president, cottagecore borrowed elements from Europe and reshaped our wills like putty. To be able to breathe at ease and exist as we please, even more than certainty, cottagecore is built around our insatiable desire for control.

2b) It's no coincidence that key components of cottagecore-living include sewing your own clothes, baking your own bread, growing your own food. In this web of interconnected and interdependent Cottagecore Commandments, one pillar is hoisted by the trinity of self-sufficiency, control, and anti-consumerism. A collective departure from late-stage capitalism yields reconstruction on what consumption can look like. Cottagecore reflects a pointed defiance against trends of hyper-production and instead encourages economic self-actualization. We can make our own world. We can make our own things. Here, we get to decide.

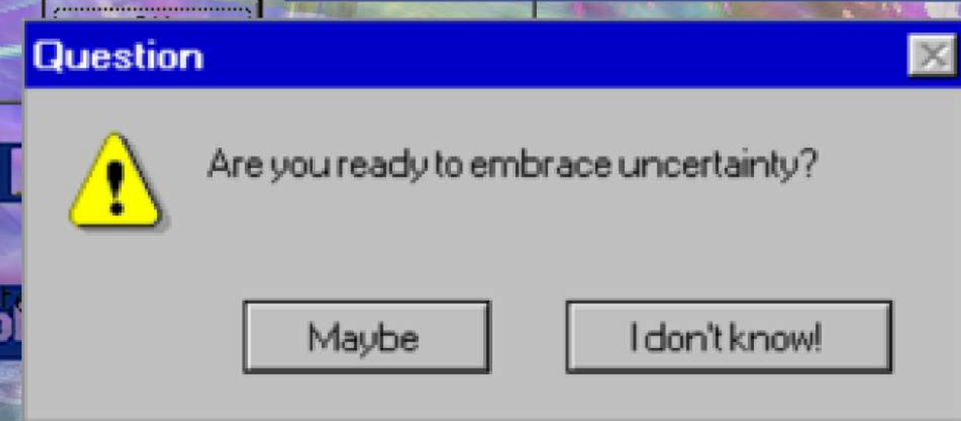


Cottagecore tugs at themes of acceptance, centering the narrative on queer women and reclaiming feminity as performance for ourselves rather than for others. This narrative runs deep enough for 'cottagecore lesbian' to be an Urban-Dictionary-able phrase, weaponizing traditionality against the incoming clutches of modernity. Cottagecore's greatest irony lies in how little we'd want this if it weren't for how far removed we are from it. Cottagecore Tumblr is an oxymoron.

Our cottagecore affinity was borne out of a direct distaste for the world's surrounding circumstances, and so a year in pandemic becomes a year of cottagecore. Things are a bit different now. We've got these cute Instagram filters that give us horns (okay, so maybe it doesn't sound cute, but I promise it is). There's this new wave of elf ears and nymph-ish clothing, too. Fairycore is what they're calling it, or goblincore for the more masc-oriented. Definitely way cottagecore-based, but different somehow… there's this fixation on the unreal. We're making the abstract tangible in creating these effervescent realms built around spirituality and energy. The same impossible fantasy that drove us to cottagecore elevates itself—it's not enough now to just be away from society; it's like now we're wondering how far we can get from ourselves.

An allure of cottagecore was its simplicity, but fairycore feeds on the complex. Fairycore views reality as malleable, subverting the edges of a TikTok or Instagram post to operate as agents of expansion rather than confinement. Digital boundaries indicate a chance to reconstruct reality; the world is how you edit it. Cottagecore was rooted in a romanticization of the past, but this? These echoes of Fairy Hollow are aiming at a plane beyond temporal memory. The future is still, to a degree, inconceivable. One year past is still our present. In exhausting our usual options, what else is there to do but to make our own.

So, quarantine goes on and we go on and the longer we stay here, the less we want to be here. Some of us might put on fairy wings, some might rip our tights in 30-degree-weather, but at the end of the day, could anyone really blame us? In a pandemic, escapism and self-care are synonymous.



Art by Cassiel Arcilla

It's been a while. I've been so scatterbrained lately, I've forgotten to write. With all my scrambled thoughts, I like to fill my days with the low hum of the fan and sweet music I don't know the words to. It's been hard to focus on so-called important things, like schoolwork. The days are the same; there's not much purpose in time anymore other than to set an 11:59pm deadline. The memory foam beneath me keeps me dreaming. While I daydream out the window squinting to find the future, memories of past years come rushing to me. Sunbeams seeping through the trees above me, my body on the grass, the laughter of the gentle wind, the thrill of blissful disobedience—those memories feel so distant, like a past life.

There's not much pleasure in nostalgia anymore, for fear that I won't be able to swim back to the present, but sometimes I like to reflect on who I used to be and how much I used to change for others to accept me. Who wouldn't recognize me now? My growth was most definitely not linear, and though I've immortalized the naïveté of my youth through brightly-colored posters of my early enthusiasms on my wall, I know I'm not who I was when I wasn't myself. I like being quiet. I like being in my mind. I like being able to inhale and exhale. I like this space, even if I lose track of time.

But my favorite time of the day is around 4:30pm. It only lasts for a few minutes, but the sunset hits the corner of my room nicely. In these moments, it's easier for me to truly remember there are people I love out there. I wonder what the sunset looks like through their windows sometimes. All these years, I never figured out the schedule of the train that passes by my house, but I wonder if the people I love have favorite sounds that they look forward to hearing from their window too, like the rumble of a train. For now I'll sacrifice my vision and screen time statistics to see my friends, old and new, inside stupid little boxes. I wish I could say out loud that I miss them deeply.

My posture sucks and I know when I'm older I'll get even shorter, but I'm still growing. I'm learning how to love in truth. Lately, I realized that self-care can take the form of honesty. And honestly, I've forgotten to live intentionally. When I don't sit still in the present, I let the blurred days evaporate into fog. In this fog, I can't see the person I want to be, the one who is waiting for me.

But 4:30pm is my favorite time of the day because I remember I'm capable of love and care. At 4:30pm, I remember I am loved from many corners and rooms around the world. At 4:30pm, I remember I am safe in solitude and in the company of my loved ones. At 4:30pm, I am present.

Hm, maybe time is my friend after all.

With love,
Cassiel

the stravinsky rite of spring

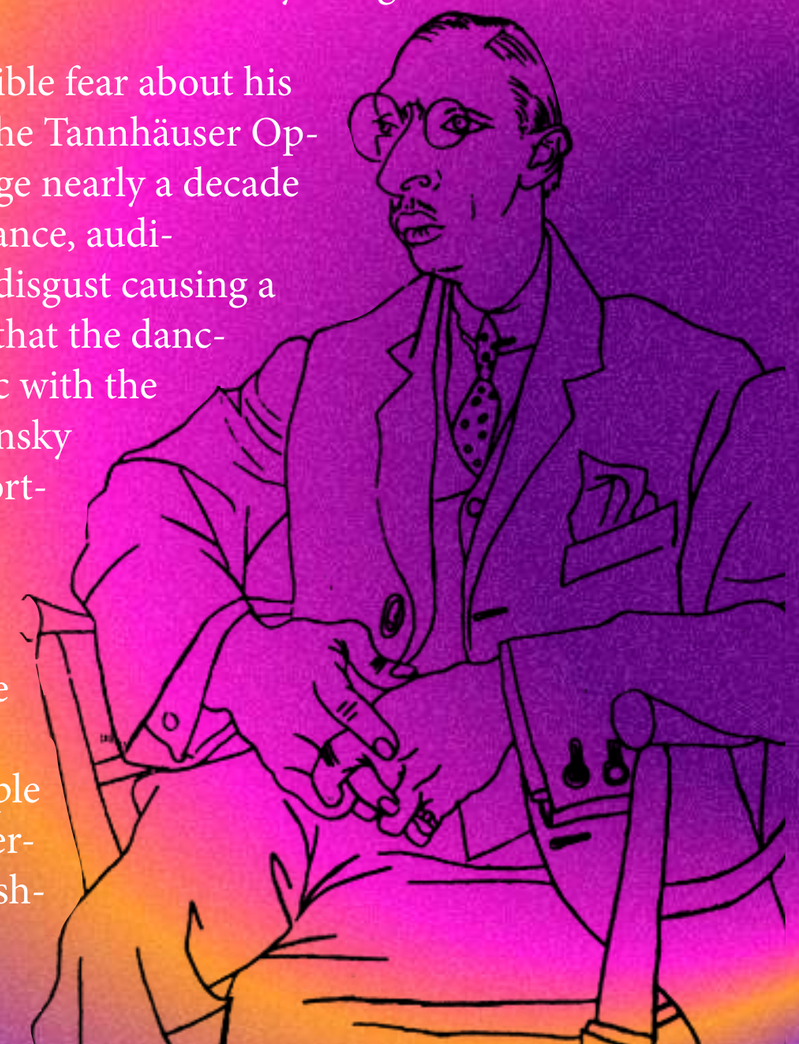
LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS

Premiering in the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées on May 29 of 1913, riot struck at the sight of Le Sacre du Printemps. On this day, Igor Stravinksy will introduce dissonance, barbaric rhythms, and raw sense of musicality with the help of choreographer, Vaslav Nijinsky. Classical music and ballet, a world of romance, is now replaced with the authentic harsh histories of Pagan Russia. These sacrificial performances were unappealing and downright disturbing but ultimately symbolized the coronation of spring, its beginning. Modernism begins thanks to Igor Stravinsky in his small rented house in Switzerland with barely enough room for one upright piano.

article by Marlia Nash

These Pagan images are broken up into two parts: Adoration of the Earth and The Sacrifice. Concepts depicted through images of music and dance are graphic and intense but are artfully pieced together with intent. Though starting as a ballet, Stravinsky revised his score for a more orchestral setting which, to this day, is still being performed. The orchestral soundtrack was not of issue to the people of Paris. The ballet itself, in fact, was the most disturbing sight that resulted in such an intense reaction. Should you be interested in viewing, the original choreography is a raw Midsommar with more truth and less theatrics, but admittedly less gore.

Stravinsky faced an incredible fear about his new avant-garde piece as the Tannhäuser Opera had been booed off stage nearly a decade prior. During the performance, audience members shouted in disgust causing a disturbance so obnoxious that the dancers could not dance in sync with the orchestra. However, Stravinsky instructed that it was important for the performance to continue despite any disturbance. Despite taking a sour punch to the face, The Rite of Spring, orchestrally, still lives on and is a staple piece in the orchestral repertoire and is a unique, refreshing approach to classical



art by Pablo Picasso

Top Three Musical Holy Grails That You Can't Listen to (Officially)

By Eric Harkleroad

Lost media has a captivating factor to it. It leads you to wonder how a product that has passed through so many hands during production can ever be truly 'lost,' especially when it comes to music, where files get passed around between songwriters, performers and producers days leading up to release.

If you're fascinated by mythical unreleased albums like I am, this is for you. Read on, Sir Galahad.

1. XCX World by Charli XCX

An artifact of hyperpop's fledgling beginnings into the mainstream, what would have been British pop star Charli XCX's third album came to a sudden halt when her Google Drive account was hacked in 2017. The album was cancelled.

Hidden in this treasure trove of wonky dance tunes produced by the likes of SOPHIE and A.G. Cook are some fan favorites, some of which saw an eventual official release: No Angel, After the Afterparty and Girls Night Out.

Others only exist as demos, where they remain to this day, like the enigmatic banger Taxi. A meme of its own in the hyperpop fandom, fans have repeatedly flooded Charli's mentions with requests to release the track. "I'm gonna play that song at my funeral the day I die," the singer once joked at a 2019 concert.

In interviews, Charli has said she does not plan to release XCX World, describing the experience of being hacked as tainting her view of the time she spent making it.

All hope is not lost for now, however. Just ask around on /r/xcxheads, someone will link to it eventually. For now, we'll all just have to stick

2. All Lights Fucked on the Hairy Amp Drooling by Godspeed You! Black Emperor

The Canadian post-rock droners of Godspeed You! Black Emperor found their home in alternative music circles with the release of their first studio album F⊠ A⊠ ∞ in 1997. But that was not their first recorded release.

Three years earlier, in 1994, the band self-released an album called All Lights Fucked on the Hairy Amp Drooling to cassette in 33 copies.

Efrim Menuck, one of the band's guitarists, has said the album sounds nothing like the instrumental, cinematic music we're used to receiving. Instead, All Lights Fucked... features singing and is "a product of its time."

As of yet, no rip of this elusive tape has emerged. In 2013, a Reddit user claimed to possess a copy of the tape, uploading photos of the cassette cover and snippets of the supposed final two tracks on the album's A-side.

After a freak-out ensued, the Reddit user said he would contact the band's label for permission before selling or uploading a rip of the tape. The account was deleted shortly afterwards.

3. Yandhi by Kanye West

There is probably no rapper as big as Kanye whose musical career has been defined by leaks.

The release of nearly every one of his albums since the late 2000s has been preceded by a flurry of leaked tracks and demos.

Then came 2018, wherein West recorded and helped produce a multitude of albums – including his album ye. The album's follow-up, Yandhi, was announced shortly afterward with a release date slated for late September.

September came and went, and Kim Kardashian, Kanye's wife, revealed to TMZ that the album was not actually finished. The rapper flew to Uganda in October, looking to reconnect with his African roots, working on the album for a few days and performing for school children at a charity event.

Then came the bad news. In November, the rapper announced he was not finished with Yandhi, indefinitely postponing its formal release.

In August of 2019, almost a year after Yandhi's announcement, came the leak.

The album contains demo tracks with features from the likes of Ty Dolla $ign, Nicki Minaj and XXXTentacion, some fully recorded and mixed, others clearly using scratch vocals.

Though Yandhi has not yet seen the light of day officially, some tracks were re-worked and put on Kanye's 2019 release, Jesus Is King.

DJ Profile: Caleb Yoshida

by Erica Javadpour and Victoria Stavish

Caleb Yoshida is a sophomore Computer Science and Studio Art double major from Forest Hills, New York. He hosts his show, scum, on WMUC—Digital every Monday from 2-3pm.

How did you start scum?
So, my friend and I were gonna do a show, but then they didn't want to, so I just did it, and we were thinking of a name, and I was like 'it should be self descriptive.' So. I liked that name. It was supposed to be like something generic that I could do whatever I wanted with.

Give us a little summary of your show.
I just play music that I like—sometimes it's just what I've been listening to recently. I'll go into either a genre, or an artist that was influential—to me—like in my past, I guess. Like, do a deep dive into it and say what I like about it, what I don't like about it, stuff like that. I'll also just like to talk about things that happened to me, a life update type shit basically. Yeah.

What is your music taste?
It's indescribable. I always like hip hop, rock, and hyper pop—a lot of hyper pop. And electronic stuff.

What would you say the show has done for you as a person?
I guess I sometimes use it as a sounding board for my ideas. Kanye—in one of his songs—he said, 'say it out loud just to see how it feels,' and it's like that type of vibe. I guess I also like the musical exploration aspect of it. Sometimes I just need songs to play on the show, so I'm like, let me go find a new song.

Is there any one episode of your show that you're super proud of?
Yeah, I guess I would say that my relative consistency is a point of pride for me. I feel like I'm still learning, but I would like to reach that point eventually where I have shows that I really am proud of.

What's your favorite scent? Be honest.
Like in the forest after the rain or something. I like the smell of rain. I read some shit that was like the rain water does something to the soil or whatever but, yeah. Rain is probably my favorite weather, too.

If you had to choose, would you rather be covered in fur or scales, and why?
I haven't really considered that one in my past... I guess I would say scales. The reason is, like if you're covered in fur, it's like when you have a jacket on and you'd like to take it off. So it's like it's too hot. But then you wouldn't be able to take off the jacket. But also scales would look weird. But with fur you would have to use a lot of shampoo.

Do you have a secret talent? Even if it's very dumb and insignificant. Is there just a thing that you can do that most people cannot.
Yeah, let me see. Secret talents. Nothing.

What is your inspiration?
Eddie Huang. He's a director now, but he's done like a lot of things. He basically just has a lot of different stuff that he's done. He's an author, he has a TV show. I really like his perspective on a lot of things because he gets into a lot of cultural issues, like identity and stuff. So, that's like an area of interest. You know *Fresh Off the Boat*, the sitcom? Yeah, so he wrote the book that that show is based off of.

Would you rather wear diamonds or pearls?
Pearls. I do have a pearl necklace. I don't know, I thought it looked cool. It's not real pearls, cuz we don't got bread like that, but yeah. I was wearing them for a while, and not because I saw them on TikTok boys, but at the same time that I saw them on TikTok boys I kind of lost interest in the pearl necklace so...

Okay, how many pillows do you sleep with, like how many pillows are on your bed?
Zero pillows. it's more comfortable that way. I have this reading pillow for when I'm doing shit, but then I take it off when I sleep.

A Taste of *scum*: Caleb's Picks

What song would you play if you are on aux at a party?
"6 Foot 7 Foot" by Lil Wayne.

What about when you just really want to dance?
"Voicenote" by Himera.

What is one of your all time favorite songs?
"U&I" by Flatbush Zombies.

What is the best animal to see at the zoo?
Penguins, not the big ones but the small ones—they're always doing stuff. One time I went to the zoo, and they had the best penguin of the week and the worst penguin of the week. I found out the worst penguin was stealing another penguin's fish.

What would be the title of your memoir?
Kind of a boring answer, but I think it would just be my name, "Caleb Yoshida." The reason behind it being I don't want anyone to have some preconceived idea of what it might be about based on the title. I want them to just read, and find out, you know, but if I had to choose a title...okay, I have it: "Juvenile Progression". The thought I had in mind was that I had several points in my life where I basically grew, I guess. Then I thought I was set. But then I actually wasn't, so then I grew again, and that thought of thinking that you're all set might be juvenile.

As a child, what was the occupation you wanted to have when you grew up?
Chef. Yeah, I liked cooking, a lot. I still like it, but I don't do it as much. But I liked it a lot as a kid. I watched The Food Network and all that shit.

What was the first thing you learned how to cook?
Probably something my mom taught me. I baked a lot of cookies and stuff like that. And just like miso soup and rice and couscous. I fuck with couscous.

What is your favorite way to spend a rainy day?
Just eat something and listen to music. I like to stare out the window a lot when it's raining, as a hobby. I also like to go on walks.

What has been keeping you busy throughout COVID?
I've been putting more effort into school. I've been watching YouTube, anime, video essays about movies and TV shows that I like, some comedy and some Japanese YouTube videos so that I can keep up my language. Oh, and also some cooking videos...

So, are you fluent in Japanese?
Yeah, I can speak, but not fluently.

Have you been to Japan?
Yeah. I have relatives that live there. I used to go more frequently, but it's been like a couple of years at this point.

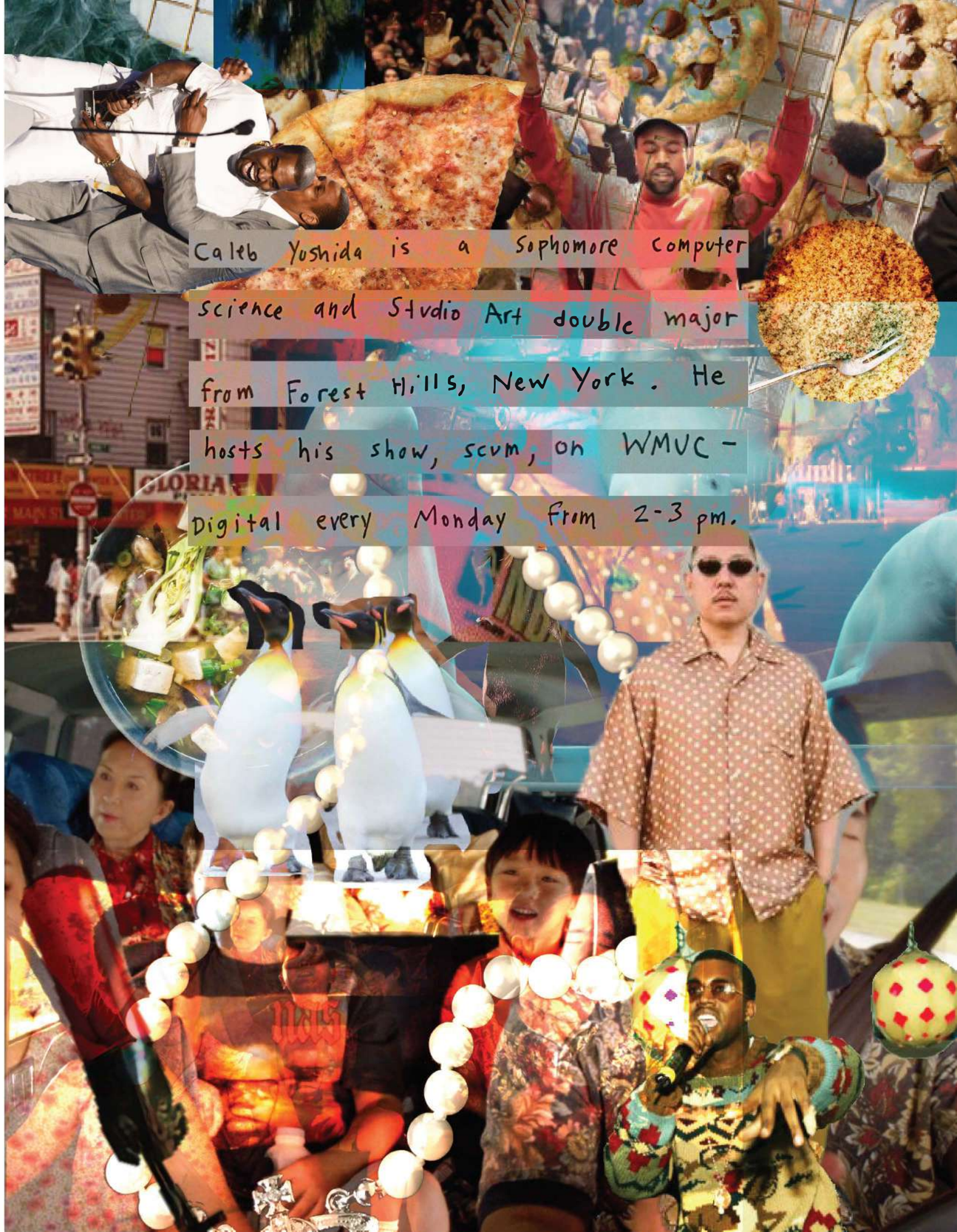
If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Definitely pizza. It's my favorite food. Not because it's the most delicious food, but because I can eat it every day. There is this place called Gloria Pizza, Forest Hills, New York. It's divisive because some people love it and some people hate it, but I like it. I've been going there for like probably over 10 years. It's a local family owned business.

What's the most exciting thing going on in your life right now?
I haven't started yet, but I am going to start learning boxing. It's like a productive way to channel your emotions. I was asking my dad if I can put a punching bag in my room. He said no, but it would just be so nice and accessible.

What's something that makes you angry, or is your pet peeve?
One is inauthenticity. And then the other one is elitism, which also bothers me. It's like inauthenticity, right.

What is your ideal ratio of peanut butter to jelly on PB&Js?
It has to be enough peanut butter that it's substantial. But then there has to be enough jelly that when you eat the peanut butter it doesn't coat your tongue, so it has to be a lubricant for the peanut butter.

Do you have a favorite celebrity?
If I had to choose, maybe Tyler the Creator. He's pretty multifaceted. He has a cool personality. Or maybe Kanye. I'm gonna say Kanye.



DOKKODO Review

Caleb Yoshida

One of the illest samurai of all time is Miyamoto Musashi, a kensei of Japan. Ken means sword and sei means... SAINT?? Like what?? Bro was a saint?? All I know is I've never met a sword-saint, so if he was alive now, he would probably have a P90X competitor workout DVD or something; capitalizing on divinity type shit. He had his first duel when he was THIRTEEN in which he beat a fully grown samurai to death with a wooden stick. UHHH WHAT???? Then he left the crib at fifteen, and of course he went on his 'Warrior's Training Journey,' or whatever they call those episodes before time skips in anime, and mastered swordsmanship, etc. At some point, he decided to fight Sasaki Kojiro, who was extremely strong and used a sword long like Zoom lectures. So they decide when and where, ah ah, and they probably had mad beef. SO MUSASHI SAID, "lemme pull up 3 hours late, AND imma use an oar as my weapon."

THE DISRESPECT!!! Obviously bro Kojiro was tight, and that affected his mental or something cause he died instantly FROM A BOAT OAR. After that, Miyamoto Musashi did some other stuff then died.

But!! Before he died, he wrote the Dokkodo: his precepts for life. The title means 'The Path of Aloneness,' which sounds cool, but I feel like Musashi just needed a bus buddy in middle school and was too nervous to speak up. Wikipedia describes the work as "a stringent, honest, and ascetic view of life," which, uhh... the vibe regarding that is, 'you do you.' Regardless! I will be reviewing the 21 precepts of Dokkodo! LET'S GO!!!

1.

Accept everything just the way it is.

This resonates with everyone that got a 'T' at the end of their MBTI test.

2.

Do not seek pleasure for its own sake.

UMmmmm, I mean I could but like, what's the point of life then????? I have been called a hedonist in the past; not yet clear on why that's a bad thing. Like the experience machine, ah ah ah, but must my life really be determined by philosophy professors and books from 90 years ago?

3.

Do not, under any circumstances, depend on a partial feeling.

Idk bro... I feel like you never had to submit an English essay that you just thought of the idea for twenty minutes ago and it's due in an hour.

4.

Think lightly of yourself and deeply of the world.

I mean... I know I'm shallow, but... don't say it so blatantly...

5.

Be detached from desire your whole life long.

Ok so idk if this makes sense but IF YOU DESIRE TO BE DETACHED FROM DESIRE THEN ARE YOU REALLY DETACHED FROM DESIRE??

6.

Do not regret what you have done.

He was probably forced to apologize to his homeroom teacher for vandalizing the desks and so he put this in to be petty. He probably also listens to Mac Demarco, like, 'babe, I'm sorry about the indentured prostitution, but you KNEW my credit score was low, and I HAD to pay off my gambling debt!'

7.

Never be jealous.

Bruhhh... do I look like Siddhartha Gautama? Expectations too high fr.

8.

Never let yourself be saddened by a separation.

His girlfriend left him!!! That's tough!!

9.

Resentment and complaint are appropriate neither for oneself or others.

Yeah shut the fuck up you dumb sstupid bitch. Imma complain all I want to.... Go cry about it.

10.

Do not let yourself be guided by the feeling of lust or love.

Refer to 8.

11.

In all things have no preferences.

I would prefer it if you kept your opinion to yourself!!! If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all. Bro missed morality education in kindergarten.

12.

Be indifferent to where you live.

This man never leaves the crib, all he needs is Wi-Fi and a Riot Games login. If he had tuned in to HGTV even once he would know that location is everything. Don't complain if you have to walk fifteen minutes to the nearest bus stop.

13.

Do not pursue the taste of good food.

I don't know about that... I understand abandoning desire, etc., but the vegetarian congee diet might be excessive. Imagine saying, 'we could add some protein, and ENJOY LIFE, but nah.'

14.

Do not hold on to possessions you no longer need.

I'm sorry, but if my 28-waist bootleg Marc Jacobs pants off Grailed that took five weeks to ship from Indonesia don't fit, I'm still keeping them. In a few years I could probably squeeze into them! Those who give hand-me-downs are pessimists.

15.

Do not act following customary beliefs.

Facts. Don't be bound by tradition, but don't feel forced to oppose tradition, either. Sometimes, they had it right the first time. It would be like not listening to Playboi Carti cause he's too mainstream, just shut up and hear God.

16.

Do not collect weapons or practice with weapons beyond what is useful.

NRA heads what's good??

17.

Do not fear death.

I see some heads on some dumb shit after accepting this. You should still look left-right-left before crossing the street.

69.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit,

sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco

songs by
Penguin Flesh

18.

Do not seek to possess either goods or fiefs for your old age.

He KNEW! On some, 'die with an empty bank account.' His kids got nothing though, just a sword and a $5 Wendy's gift card. They were probably tight too, like 'damn, we've been feeding you through a straw the past twenty years and this ALL we get for it? Still love you Dad but u knew my love language was gifts and not quality time...'

19.

Respect Buddha and the gods without counting on their help.

The gods are sometimes a little stingy with their assistance, like where was the bless when I needed to wake up on time? I know dependency is bad but at this point Morpheus is being selfish.

20.

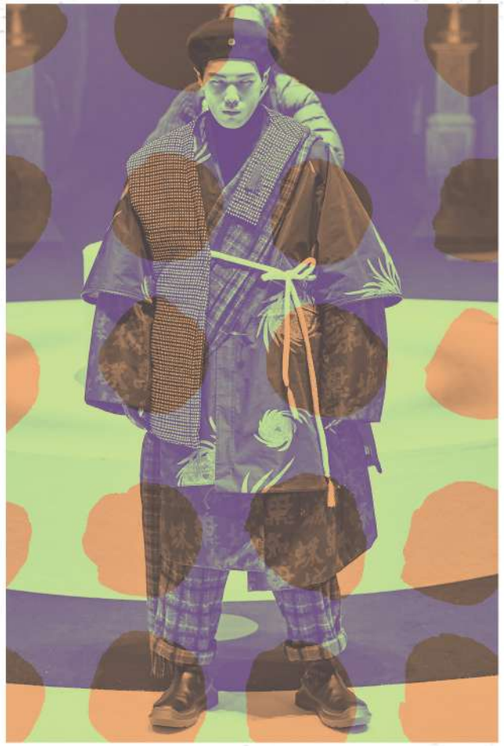
You may abandon your own body but you must preserve your honour.

UHHH??? Could this be why you can't wear shoelaces? Maybe start small with Prozac?

21.

Never stray from the way.

Yes sir!



THE BLING RING IS A PERFECT MOVIE (SOUNDTRACK)

Justin Gross

sofia coppola traffics in anachronisms. her filmic opus - in my opinion, anyway - 2006's marie antoinette, is a prime example of this quirk of hers. here, coppola bucks "historical accuracy" for the sake of crafting a mood piece out of the life of the infamous aristocrat. she achieves this through contemporary dialogue and creative costuming, sure. but what sofia coppola does best is invent worlds of music. the film's soundtrack features cuts from the cure, aphex twin and the strokes, among countless others. in doing so, coppola turns kirsten dunst's antoinette into a portrait of young adult angst. we find humanity in dunst's portrayal because she, like us, cries to indie/alternative hits.

so, what happens when coppola applies this thinking to the contemporary? enter 2013's the bling ring, an interesting piece of her filmography. here, coppola asks two bold questions: "can a crime film be quirky?" and "is the recent past open to interpretation?" the first question is, intentionally or otherwise, answered pretty plainly: yes. the second is where coppola works her magic.

the titular "bling ring" was, for those unaware, a group of teenagers who carried out burglaries on some of the greatest icons of the 2000s. from 2008 to 2009, the group's reign of terror left the likes of paris hilton and lindsay lohan slightly less wealthy than normal. the bling ring is quirky, but not in the wes anderson sense. instead, its quirk comes from how it plays with genre: it's a big set of crimes told on an incredibly small scale. these aren't epic, complex heists pulled off by child crime-prodigies. the film's central characters are just bored, slightly unhinged teens trying to add spice to their lives.

so, when coppola needs to set a tone, but the music of whatever era she's playing with doesn't suit her, what does she do? like in her past films, she reinterprets. this is why our teenage sociopaths party to azealia banks's "212," a song that wouldn't be released for a full two years after they were busted. our protagonists scream along to "all of the lights"; the first sequence of the movie is set to sleigh bells's "crown on the ground." the movie is filled with these moments of 2000s adolescent depravity backed by a distinctly 2010s score.

in twisting the sonic timeline of her movie, sofia coppola cuts to the emotional core of a larger-than-life story. sure, she could've adhered more strictly to a period-appropriate sound for accuracy's sake. but, in choosing to buck accuracy, coppola's story becomes a more universal indictment of excess in american youth culture. we're not meant to feel glamor as these characters rob paris hilton blind. we're not meant to feel triumphant as they speed off from the scene of the crime. we're meant to realize the precarity of these antics, the unspoken desperation of our protagonists.

THE BLING RING CRYSTALIZES A CULTURE ON THE BRINK: THIS IS THE LAST TIME OUR CELEBRITIES LOOKED LIKE THAT, ACTED LIKE THAT, AND WERE INACCESSIBLE IN A WAY THAT FELT APPEALING TO US.

in our contemporary era of social media and influencer culture it feels easier than ever to attain what figures like lohan once represented. we don't have to rob orlando bloom and his then girlfriend to feel luxurious. now we can just buy the same skincare products we watch them use in their insta stories to feel like we've made it, even if for a fleeting moment.

the bling ring is capped off by an early release of "super rich kids." included at the behest of kanye west, it feels like a perfect end to a fairly perplexing ride. after all, the kids in the movie were never meant to feel satiated by their spontaneous displays of wealth.

THEIR REAL PUNISHMENT WASN'T CRIMINAL, BUT EMOTIONAL: THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE APPEARANCE OF WEALTH THAT AMBIGUOUS TEEN ANGST CREATES EVENTUALLY GOES AWAY.

much like in marie antoinette, coppola's music conveys this message better than any spoken words ever could.

ALBUM REVIEW

by Micaela Grace

Pink Moon by Nick Drake

Listening to this album from start to finish feels like a cool winter night alone, but it also feels like going grocery shopping or driving on a rainy day. In just under 30 minutes, Nick Drake packs his final album, *Pink Moon*, to the brim with glorious songwriting, simple acoustics, and a beautiful yet ominous vibe. Drake created this album in just two nights, with only the warm sounds of his acoustic guitar and his flawless picking. Only one track adds more than just an acoustic guitar, overdubbed with piano: the title track. Each track on Drake's *Pink Moon* sounds like a gentle whisper, yet his voice can be incoherent at times. Nick Drake whispers his poetic lines, while sounding distant and disconnected at the same time.

A pink moon can be spiritually known as apocalyptic. Nick Drake may have been overlooked during his time, but as the moon waxes and wanes, *Pink Moon* also cements itself as one of the best singer-songwriter albums of all time.

West Coast Dreaming

Ileana Y. Lozano

I've never seen a palm tree
Or felt the Pacific sunshine
On my skin

I want to know the ocean while holding your hand
Count the stars and days from our sweet getaway
Tame the wildfires and find the Zodiac, too

I'll come with a hand to hold and a little hat to fit
Our West Coast dream
And the polaroid that I'll kiss from my dresser

I'll be sure to wear violet lilacs in my hair

This dream is divine
It's like a baby on fire
Do you think it could ever be like heaven?

We'll be Lewis and Love but Bonnie and Clyde
And if we can't get into heaven, dear
Scatter my ashes over strawberry soda

"Honey Eyes" - Chris Rojas

"baba" - Graph Theory

Photos by Quinn Dang

Today

Anonymous

three months ago, almost to the day, i wrote my last poem.

it was about you, but this one isn't.

instead of a swing set on a freezing night, i'm sitting on concrete stairs on a sunny day. a gentle breeze passes over me occasionally.

the sun hits my skin and glints against my eyes gently. they're like golden lens flares flashing in my face.

cars pass by slowly, their tires make a calm scraping sound against the street

the walk to and back doesn't feel lonely, it feels freeing.

and for the first time in a long while, in this moment, i am happy.

Ground yourself and focus on what you need guidance on. When you're ready, choose the card that resonates with you the most.

Art by Cassiel Arcilla

Every card has its own meaning. To learn more about your card, find your tarot card reading on the next page...

The Magician

The Hermit

Death

The Tower

The Lovers

Art by Cassiel Arcilla

The Magician

You're worrying about something. There's a big project coming up or a major event down the pipe. Take a deep breath and relax. For this thing you're worrying about to have come your way at all means you already have the tools (physical or mental) to succeed, now you just need to put them to use. I'm not saying it's going to be easy, but you can handle it. Don't half-ass this one, even if you think you can get away with it. Put in your whole effort and you will be rewarded. It could mean the difference between a big change in a good way and things trudging along the same path they always do.

Listen to: "REALiTi (Demo)" by Grimes

Death (reversed)

You're refusing to let go of old habits and emotions that no longer serve you and this is hurting you. You might feel stuck in your current situation, but don't worry, you aren't! Sometimes, even when we're unhappy with how our lives are going, we find a certain comfort in wallowing in our sadness and negativity, because it lets us avoid change. Death in reverse represents fear of change and stagnation. The universe is telling you to open up to change by releasing the things, feelings, people, etc. that are hindering you. You may feel hopeless and stuck now, but a brighter, happier future is coming your way and all you have to do is welcome change instead of running away from it! Remember - trouble don't last always.

Listen to: "The Body is a Blade" by Japanese Breakfast

The Lovers (reversed)

Have you been avoiding letting go of something (or someone)? Do you feel that there's just something not quite right within yourself? If so, this could be a sign that you should take a step back and look objectively onto what you can and can't do. No need to be impatient with yourself or with anyone else — focus on opening up your mind and your heart. Sometimes we might feel a bit out of sync with the world around us, and that's okay! Try to admire your own qualities like you admire the qualities of others. Decisions take time, and like our values, they won't always be black and white.

Listen to: "Take Some Time" by Mack Keane

The Hermit

In solitude, your breathing is steady and your mind is clear. This stillness will allow you to detach yourself from the noisy expectations of the crowd, therefore becoming your truest self. However, as easy as it is to be alone, it is but a skill to be alone with the strength to resist loneliness from devouring you. This is a skill The Hermit has mastered, and you will too, if you are willing to reflect on your past and present. The knowledge you are searching for will be found when you allow yourself to look inward to your soul. Once you begin listening to your inner voice, the one that you so often neglect, you will find that self care will come in the form of truth. Listen with intention, breathe the silence, find your truth. Suffering may follow your truth, but know that this means that you have found the path to rebirth, in which your memories and your inner voice will guide you to your blossoming.

Listen to: "Komorebi" by Craft Spells

The Tower

ok w8 don't panic it's not 2 late to pretend u meant 2 choose sum other card (jk im hahahaha kidding (or mb not??!?!??)). ok but w w w WAIT come back. stay. it's safe here!! .. . .kinda.. . . so yea yea ik i get a bad rep or watevaaaaa, but it's not ALL bad. listen, all i'm tryna say is dat sumn gon CHANGE (boom)—fo betta or worse, imma leave dat up 2 u.. . . but 1 thing fo sho, it's gon b SUDDN n ABRUPT ! but dw, if there's anything 2 b learned from tarot, it's that da Past can predict tha FUUUUUTURE.. . .. so (cue audience participation) take a lil inventory rn. where've u been? what've u done? all life is is just how the cookie crumbles, babe, so c'mon let's lick that plate CLEAN! is dis future gon take u by surprise? (mb.) is it gon b scary? (probably.) ngl, they prob sent me here cuz life gon take u + shake u + rough u up in some sorta abominable way, but trust... it's 4 ur own good. i wouldn't do u like that. good luck tho, ur gonna need it.

Listen to: "Carried Away" by Passion Pit

YOUR TAROT CARD READING

Written by
Cassiel Arcilla,
Eric Harkleroad,
Joy Lee,
Sabrina Li,
Aneesha Tamang

spring 2021 playlist

Divine Violence
itoldyouiwouldeatyou

Be Sweet
Japanese Breakfast

The Other Lover
Little Dragon & Moses Sumney

Chemtrails Over the Country Club
Lana del Rey

Savior Complex
Phoebe Bridgers

Hope
Arlo Parks

These Words
Natasha Bedingfield

Hypotheticals
Lake Street Dive

Cinema
Kero Kero Bonito

Dreams from Yesterday
Mac DeMarco

Spin
Duke Deuce

Garden of Eden
Billie Marten

dreaming
1-800 lost, Jade Alice

Sukidakara
UMI

Unrecorded
M83

Come Here
Kath Bloom

When We Fall
Grouper

Misery Business
Paramore

Cupid's Chokehold/ Breakfast in America
Gym Class Heroes ft. Patrick Stump

Hollywood
MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS

Redesign Your Logo
Lemon Demon

Full Gas- (Live in Woodstock Festival)
Ska-P

Fuego
Bomba Estéreo

Bang Yer Head
Portraits of Past

Floater
Every Time I Die

Stained Glass Body
Jefre Cantu-Ledesma

おまえ
tricot

Can't Fight
Lianne La Havas

IGGY POP FAN CLUB
Number Girl

Penny Rabbit and Summer Bear
Kishi Bashi

Man on the Moon
Zella Day

Listen!!!
Aly & AJ

Communicator 1
Market

Danger Baby
Pom Poko

Opus
Black Country New Road

Thinkin Bout You
KATIE

Don't Call Me
SHINee

ALL IN
Stray Kids

Trouble's Coming
Royal Blood

Typhoons
Royal Blood

Is It True
Tame Impala

Something to Believe
Weyes Blood

This Flight Tonight
Joni Mitchell

Wuthering Heights
Kate Bush

Can't Get Enough of Myself
Santigold ft. BC Unidos

A fleur de toi
Vitaa

I Can Do Better
Avril Lavigne

King for a Day
Pierce the Veil ft. Kellin Quinn

Beyond My Control
Meet Me @ The Altar

Nattöppet
Detektivbyrån

LOVE %
DEMIAN ft. DAWN

Rollin'
Brave Girls

Wanda's Cunty Vision
Ocean Kelly

Strange Powers
The Magnetic Fields

I am the Changer
Cotton Jones

Rising
Wooden Shjips

Sweet Hibiscus Tea
Penelope Scott

Too Sensitive
Sean Kennedy

The Calmdown Reggae
John That

That Radio Show

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